

2
MOMUS IS KING
AT ANNUAL FEAST

Printers of Washington Make
Merry at the Arlington.

TOASTMASTER IS THE MOGUL

With the Aid of a Tack Hammer
Keeps Speakers Within Bounds.
Gen. Keifer Raps a Few Things
About the Federal Government, As
Do Also Gompers and Williams.

Congress was slapped on the wrist, the Federal system of appointments was soundly rapped, and everything else that was important was handed over "below the belt," at the twelfth annual banquet of the printers of Washington, the organization which is officially known as "The Knights of Momus," at the Arlington Hotel last night.

Festive quips had the inside track, and sober second thought was about fourteen laps behind. Everything "went." Whenever a speaker ceased to be interesting, the toastmaster brought down a tack hammer on a fire gong, and another exponent forensic pyrotechnics was allowed to inflict his personality as long as he had anything original to inflict.

Burns of Wit Cracked.
It was a feast of the inconsequential, an orgy of the immaterial. But at that, when some of the cleverest bursts of wit were cracked open, the most inside was found to contain several of the rudiments of what almost approached intelligence.

Samuel Gompers was there, looking very fetching in a black suit cap. A few seats away from him sat his co-partner in jail aspirations, Frank Morrison, and neither of them seemed to be specially worried about it. In fact, one of the best features of the evening had the two labor leaders as its subject.

At a certain point in the proceedings, when the list of best had "settled" and fretted its way across the stage, to be seen no more, and the quail was about down, the lights went out, and the hall was left in darkness, except for the glowing ends of a couple of hundred cigars.

Somewhat with a dark lantern went up and down the line of celebrities at the main table, throwing the light of the lantern in the face of each of the members of the great and the near-great.

Gompers Is Guilty.
As the series, skull-capped head of Mr. Gompers came within the halo of light, a solemn voice said:

"We find this man guilty."
"Guilty of what?" came the answer.

"I don't know. Guilty of anything—guilty of being in bad company."

Thereupon Frank A. Kidd arose and moved that the toastmaster, F. N. Whitehead, be impeached for making improper use of the secret service. A hot debate followed, the details of which are kept out of print by request, and upon a rising vote the toastmaster was sustained. He was allowed to give up his office with honor and resign the tackhammer to Will E. Burchfield, who conducted the banquet thence onward.

A quartet composed of Messrs. Myers, Mosher, Roderick, and Holland was observed by a desire to sing on every patriotic occasion, and the mere mention of a new speaker's name was enough to call forth an outbreak of close harmony, that wasn't had at that. In fact, when "My Rosary" was sung with all the lights out and the diners in a sentimental mood, tears were freely shed, and everybody agreed that "My Rosary" was strong with the lacrimal department.

Things to Eat and Drink.

The menu was punctuated with several large-sized bunches of grapes in a state of decomposition, commonly known by such names as sauterne et al. There was roast quail sur canape and salade chiffoniere and green turtle au xeres, and a number of others.

When the black coffee had come on and the individual packages of cigars had been undone, the programme commenced, under the caption of "Thoughts from Russia." Frank D. Smith, scribbler of the scroll, read the report of the last annual banquet, containing disrespectful remarks about many prominent persons present. His remarks were received in good part, however, and beyond a brief interruption when Gen. Keifer, former Speaker of the House, had to have his collar loosened, everything went smoothly.

Mr. Burchfield was then installed as president and toastmaster, and the official ball was transferred to a position in front of him. He thereupon proceeded to introduce speakers, the first of whom was Gen. J. Warren Keifer, who was mentioned as the "youngest member of the 'Knockers' Club." He started out to live up to his reputation for kitchiness with much success. He pounced upon some prominent question in the public eye—it doesn't matter what it was—and rolled it all about the floor of the Temple of Oratory, patting it from time to time with the paw of facetiousness. All of which made sure a hit that Mr. Gompers' hat got crooked and required straightening.

Sentiment to the Fore.

Harvey Ellis, past exalted ruler of Lodge No. 15 of Elks, came to the front with a car load of sentiment in the form of the "I'll clobber toast," which started tears to flowing freely. It occurred at 11:30, but that was because the toastmaster forgot himself and lost a lap on his schedule.

The alphabet was recited by Hon. Julius Kahn, Representative from San Francisco. His performance was not so much to show that now and then a Representative can recite the alphabet as to illustrate some story or other he was telling, which was probably all right at that. Mr. Kahn recited the alphabet

JOLLY GOOD FELLOWS, ONE AND ALL.



JOHN R. PURVIS, Vice-President
F. N. WHITEHEAD, President
FRANK D. SMITH, Sec'y
BILLY BURCHFIELD, Treasurer
H. A. WATKINS, Treasurer

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New Officers Elected.

New officers were elected in almost every German society, and the United Singers are rehearsing to compete in the National Saengerfest, which will be held at Madison Square Garden, New York, some time in June this year, in the second class. Prof. Henry Xander, the leader of the United Singers, is directing the rehearsals.

Direct the Knockers.

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